Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Working paper submitted by Mongolia

1. The general position of Mongolia on the issues related to nuclear-weapon-free zones has been reflected in the working paper (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.11) presented by the members of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

2. The above-mentioned working paper pointed out that the Group considered that the further institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status would be an important measure towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime in the region.

3. Mongolia borders only two States, the Russian Federation and China, both of which are nuclear-weapon States. Therefore, the institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status is seen mainly as the conclusion of an international treaty by Mongolia with its immediate neighbours that would define clearly its international status and the commitments of Mongolia and its neighbours, nuclear-weapon States. The treaty is to have common basic undertakings similar to other international treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones, and it is to reflect the unique position of Mongolia as a landlocked country bordering on only two nuclear-weapon States.

4. As a State that would acquire nuclear-weapon-free zone status, Mongolia would make a commitment not to allow the stationing on its territory of nuclear weapons or parts thereof nor to allow its territory to be used against any other State.

5. As per the understanding reached in Sapporo in 2001 at the meeting of representatives of Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States and at the United Nations in 2002, Mongolia has presented to its neighbours the basic elements of the possible trilateral treaty that would define Mongolia's status and the possible commitments of the States parties. Having received a general positive response as well as some concrete suggestions on the content of the treaty from its neighbours, Mongolia drew up a draft trilateral treaty and in September 2007 presented it to the Russian Federation and China. It is expected that consultations and negotiations on the draft will follow soon.

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6. As part of the institutionalization of its status, Mongolia has established formal relations with the treaty agencies of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The relations are expected to include the exchange of information and consultations, as needed, on common policy issues and on matters of mutual interest.

7. Mongolia fully supports the eight concrete proposals made by the Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group at the first session of the Preparatory Committee aimed at promoting closer cooperation between the various nuclear-weapon-free zones (see NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.71).

8. Mongolia believes that an updated comprehensive study on nuclear-weapon-free zones in all their aspects needs to be undertaken. The study would highlight the experience of establishing the zones and underline the strengths and weaknesses of the established zones, their comparative advantages and their role in promoting the goals of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

9. The Preparatory Committee has an important role to play in strengthening the NPT treaty and the non-proliferation regime as well as in promoting the noble goals of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. Mongolia is prepared to work actively with other States parties to the NPT and to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties during the preparatory stage, at the 2010 Conference itself and well beyond it.